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Flour from the USSR

1. On 1 May 1952, 50,000 tons of Soviet flour arrived in North Korea. The arrival and distribution of the flour were timed to coincide with May Day celebrations throughout the country. The flour was sent as a holiday gift from Stalin and was offered to the North Korean people to encourage the army and ease the food shortage among the population, according to some officials.
2. Some of the flour was shipped from Vladivostok by rail through Manchuria to Sinuiju (124-24, 40-06) (XE-1939) to supply northwest Korea, and the rest was sent by ship from Vladivostok to Unggi (130-24, 42-21) (FB-1589) for northeast Korea.
3. Upon arrival at Sinuiju and Unggi, the flour was sent to railroad stations in various counties, where it was distributed by people's committees. Sixty tons of the relief flour arrived at the Sop'o (125-44, 39-05) (YD-3629) railroad station on 15 May, for the people of Taetong-gun. Two kilograms of flour per person were distributed in Sukh'on-myon (125-38, 39-24) (YD-2764) on 25 May, and the people of P'yongyang received the same amount per person on 30 May.
4. Businessmen and people engaged in private enterprise were excluded from the distribution. Laborers, office workers, farmers, and their families received 2 kilograms each, free of charge.

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5. It was rumored in P'yongyang that only a small part of the total amount of this flour was distributed to the people and that most of the supply would go to the North Korean army. Before the arrival of the flour, North Korean army personnel were receiving 600 grams of rice and 200 grams of grain per man daily. After the flour shipment from the USSR came in, each man was drawing 500 grams of rice and 300 grams of flour daily. In June 1952, laborers were receiving rations which consisted of all flour and no rice or grain.
6. The North Korean Labor Party ordered that all political and social organizations send messages of thanks to Stalin for sending the flour.

Food Supplies from Communist China

7. On 4 May 1952, 30,000 tons of rice, sorghum, and flour arrived in North Korea from Communist China. It was announced that MAO Tse-tung had sent these supplies to commemorate Chinese Youth Day and to promote friendly relations between China and North Korea.
8. The supplies were sent from China by way of Antung, Manchuria. On 8 June, thirty freight cars loaded with rice and sorghum arrived at YD-378326, 1 kilometer north of Söp'o railroad station. Men of the guard unit of the Chinese Communist 1 Battalion, 5 Rear Service Command, unloaded these supplies and carried them to a nearby hillside. The food was to be distributed in the same way as the flour which had been sent by the Russians.

Distribution of Food Aid in Kosong-gun

9. From the middle of April to the middle of June 1952, local authorities made six distributions of relief grain to war refugees in the Kosong-gun (128-17, 38-42) (DT-3883) area. It was officially stated that this grain was sent from the USSR and Communist China<sup>1</sup> to be given to the refugees, and according to local propaganda announcements, Chinese Communist soldiers fighting in North Korea saved their own food rations to give to war refugees. Millet from Communist China was distributed to each person as follows: mid-April, 3 liters; 30 April, 5 liters; early May, 5 liters; mid-May, 3 liters.
10. In June 1952, wheat flour from the USSR was distributed to each war refugee in the Kosong-gun area as follows: early June, 6 liters; mid-June, 7 liters.

1.   Comment. The establishment of a large Chinese Communist supply depot at Hyesanjin (128-11, 41-24) (DA-3283) for storage of flour from Manchuria was reported  .

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